

AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD DUNN ADMINISTRATION
INTERVIEW WITH
NAT WASHBURN, JR.

BY - CHARLES W. CRAWFORD
TRANSCRIBER - BETTY WILLIAMS
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE
MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY



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JANUARY 31, 1977

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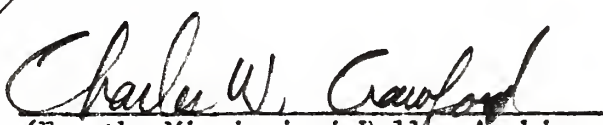
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PLACE Tullahoma, TN.

DATE January 31, 1977


(Interviewee)


(For the Mississippi Valley Archives
of the John Willard Brister Library
of Memphis State University)

THIS IS THE ORAL HISOTRY RESEARCH OFFICE OF MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY.
THIS PROJECT IS "AN ORAL HISTORY OF THE WINFIELD DUNN ADMINISTRATION."
THE PLACE IS TULLAHOMA, TENNESSEE. THE DATE IS JANUARY 31, 1977, AND
THE INTERVIEW IS WITH MR. NAT I. WASHBURN, JR. THE INTERVIEW IS
BY DR. CHARLES W. CRAWFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE. TRANSCRIBED BY MRS. BETTY WILLIAMS.

DR. CRAWFORD: Mr. Washburn, let's get some background
information about you before we get on
into your association with Winfield Dunn. Will you give a brief biography of yourself beginning with when and where you were born, your family and then your early life.

MR. WASHBURN: I was born in Meridian, Mississippi at the
Great Southern Hotel in that city--literally in the hotel in room 413. I lived there all of my growing-up years. I attended the city schools of Meridian and graduated from Meridian Senior High in 1941. I attended Mississippi State College as a freshman in 1941 subsequently went to Marion Military Institute to prepare for an Annapolis appointment. I later chose not to go to Annapolis and resigned my appointment and went then into the Army Air Corps as a flying cadet. I graduated as a second lieutenant from pilot school at Williams Field in Channel, Arizona and served until October of 1945. I flew as a pilot on several types of aircraft, ending up as a pilot of a B-29 aircraft.

After I was separated from the service in October 1945 I chose not to return to Mississippi State, but instead to the University of Mississippi at Oxford. I graduated from the University of Mississippi, which is Ole Miss, in June of 1948 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. I married the following week to Nancy Hardin and we have been happily married since that date until this date and we have three children--all girls.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about your contact with Winfield Dunn
 and the Dunn family? How did that start?
What sequence did that go through, Mr. Washburn?

MR. WASHBURN: Winfield and I were youngsters together in Meridian. I was a little older than Winfield, but I always knew that he was there. His sister, Ann, was my first recollection of the Dunn family. She and I were third grade classmates at Marion Park School there in Meridian and I might say that she was my third grade sweetheart. She might never have remembered that, but she was and I always thought she was the prettiest thing that ever was at that time. I was aware that Winfield's father, Auburt Dunn, was a congressman, and I can remember very well the political speeches that Auburt Dunn made on the lawn of the City Hall there in Meridian. This is before the days of the public address systems. His father had a tremendous roaring, bullsh-type voice. When he spoke the words just rolled out. He was quite eloquent. I was just always aware of the Dunn family.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember any incidents involving the

father as you were growing up?

MR. WASHBURN:

Well, as a matter of fact I do. I remember one quite well. I doubt seriously if Con-

gressman Dunn would ever remember this. Sometime during the middle thirties we had a little fireworks stand right there in front of my father's hotel, The Great Southern Hotel. Since there was no ordinance prohibiting the sale of fireworks at that time anyone who had an orange crate or an apple crate could set them up a little fireworks stand anywhere along the street. This is what they did. I had a close friend by the name of Sonny Montgomery, and Sonny and I were operating our stand and we decided to close it up one day and take a tour around the town and see how our competition was doing.

As we rounded the corner there beside the First National Bank, Sonny and I decided we would shoot off one of these big aerial bombs. It's the type that one explosion would send another higher in the air and it would explode with tremendous sound. Well, somehow we decided we would do this right in the middle of the sidewalk, and of course the Christmas crowds were going back and forth and we didn't think anything about the danger. So Sonny just lighted the match and he was lighting it just about the time Auburt Dunn, who was Congressman at the time, was walking down the street. So he goes up and says, "What do you kids mean by doing this?" and he proceeds to kick the aerial bomb away toward the gutter--and about that time it exploded. It almost went up his britches leg. It went under a car and another charge exploded and I can remember Sonny saying, "If it hadn't been for old Auburt Dunn the

thing would have been all right. I don't know why he had to come along and interfere with it for!" or some such explanation. But as it turns out Sonny Montgomery is now congressman and has the seat in Congress that was formerly occupied by Auburt Dunn. I thought that was a bit of human interest story there.

DR. CRAWFORD: When did you come into contact with Winfield Dunn after you had grown up?

MR. WASHBURN: After the war when I got out of the service in 1945, I decided to go to Ole Miss. Winfield had also gotten out of the service. I believe he served in the Navy, and came to Ole Miss as a freshman. He'd grown up quite a bit and we actively rushed him for our fraternity, Kappa Alpha. I was quite instrumental in this rush since he was a personal friend and I knew him and his family quite well, and I did everything I could to entice Winfield into the fraternity. Sure enough, we were successful and he did pledge Kappa Alpha. In addition to that it so happened that Winfield and I had some classes together and we were just friends during that whole time. But I didn't hear any more from Winfield after I graduated in 1948 until he was beginning his active campaign on the Republican ticket for governor.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you graduate at the same time?

MR. WASHBURN: No, I graduated two years ahead of Winfield. I graduated in 1948 and I believe he graduated in 1950.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you had no contact then until twenty years later--the campaign of 1970?

MR. WASHBURN: That's right. I didn't have any more con-

tact with Winfield. I remember very well when he announced his candidacy and I saw a small notice in the paper that Winfield Dunn was going to run for governor. Well, I could hardly believe that it was the same Winfield Dunn, because he just wasn't inclined to be a politician, or rather I didn't think so, although he was president of the fraternity and held some student political office there on the campus. But I had no idea he was going to be the one who was running for governor from Memphis. As I say, I had lost contact with him until then. When he ultimately won the Republican nomination, of course I was elated. And to be perfectly honest. I had supported him during that time. I guess I was the only person in Tullahoma that had ever heard of him before. And I remember when he was elected or won the nomination, they called me for an interview from the newspaper and from the local radio station. I was quoted extensively at that time about my friendship with Winfield. I tried my dead-level best to contact him by telephone and I was unsuccessful because the people were really clamoring for his attention but I was successful in talking with his daddy.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now this was just after the primary in August?

MR. WASHBURN: Right. It was right after the announcement or the next day I suppose it was when I finally reached Winfield by telephone. They said, "He just is not available, but his father is available." Then I said, 'Then please put the Congressman on the line.' So Aubert Dunn came on the telephone and

I introduced myself to him over the telephone and I thought he was going to cry right then. Of course, he knew me only too well and he knew my father and was a close friend of my father's, and the fact is, the whole Dunn family and my family were very well acquainted during those early years. My father was an active supporter of Auburt Dunn at that time politically.

Auburt Dunn was an attorney, but I didn't know this until later when Mr. Dunn told me this. It seems that during the depression things were pretty tough back then and he was a struggling young lawyer and my father was, I believe, at the time president of Mississippi Hotel Association. So he got them to accept Auburt Dunn as the attorney for the association. Of which he told me, "You have no idea how eternally grateful I was because it was one of the things that kinda pulled us through." So our families down through the years have been closely associated if not intimately so.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then what happened during your conversation with Congressman Dunn after the primary? Did you make plans for the campaign?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, as a matter of fact, I took upon myself to be the chairman of his campaign with no active organization at all and there were two other people here in town.

DR. CRAWFORD: How do you define your chairmanship--was it city or county?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, I really don't know. It could have been county or city or whatever. We did

most of the work here in the city and also it encompassed the county too.

DR. CRAWFORD: In effect, it was county-wide, wasn't it?

MR. WASHBURN: Very definitely. It ultimately became county-wide--yes, but no one appointed me. I appointed myself and there were two other individuals here in town, Doyle Richardson and Eric Sosby, who had contacted me and knew of my friendship with Winfield and I don't know whether they wanted to get on the bandwagon or just what. But they encouraged me to take charge of the situation, which I did. I didn't need a whole lot of encouragement.

DR. CRAWFORD: You started out with an organization then of about three people, didn't you?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, almost an organization of one because I was just about it! We organized this thing and got the ball to rolling. I think we did a pretty good job here in the county. We collected quite a bit of money for the campaign and we just did anything and everything we could to promote Winfield Dunn.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now faced with the problem, and I believe you did this in August, developing an organization for a candidate in a county where you didn't have one, what did you do first? Did you raise money, rent an office?

MR. WASHBURN: We didn't rent an office at that time. We were raising money, we were just going to different individuals and asking them for contributions. This is pretty much what we did as far as our organization was concerned.

DR. CRAWFORD: What kind of success did you have in rais-

ing money as you went to people?

MR. WASHBURN: We didn't have any difficulty at all. People were very very happy to donate to Winfield Dunn's campaign. I might say here at this moment we did have an active Republican Party in the county. I assume that they were really glad to have us as the campaign chairman, because of the close personal ties and the interest that I had with Winfield.

DR. CRAWFORD: Had you been a Republican before?

MR. WASHBURN: I am not a Republican now. I don't know. . I was like Winfield. Winfield and I were born and raised Democrats. We didn't know how to spell Republican.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was usual for Mississippi at that time.

MR. WASHBURN: We didn't know anything about the Republican Party or anything about it. As I say when I came up here I was never active in politics, local or otherwise. I don't choose to be active right at this particular time. As I say I wasn't much a staunch Republican. I've always been one to support an individual on his own merits.

DR. CRAWFORD: And here you had an individual whom you could really support?

MR. WASHBURN: Very definitely. Winfield Dunn is one of the most dedicated and sincere individuals that I have ever known. I knew this from the time he was in school down at Ole Miss and I had no qualms whatsoever about supporting him.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did your campaign in the county compare with the work of the Republican Committee?

Was it active?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes, it was. It was active. We had a pret-

ty close tie-in with them after they saw we were able to handle the campaign and we had very good cooperation with the Republican Party in the county.

DR. CRAWFORD: Was it any help to you in the campaign?

MR. WASHBURN: Oh yes, very definitely.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did the party here do?

MR. WASHBURN: To be perfectly truthful, I don't know of anything that I can say that they actually did other than to promote Winfield at every opportunity. It was not only Winfield at that time, but the Republican Party was supporting Bill Brock also.

DR. CRAWFORD: I don't believe that there was a congressional candidate in this district that year.

MR. WASHBURN: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did they put up any advertising or raise any money?

MR. WASHBURN: The Republican Party of course supported Winfield but here again, it boiled down to Doyle and Eric Sosby and myself. We had a big street banner across the street here and we did have a campaign headquarters set up here and we had people manning the campaign headquarters. We were quite active. Here again we did get support from the Republican Party.

DR. CRAWFORD: In managing your own campaign what size contribution did you normally get and what kind of people--businesses, individuals?

MR. WASHBURN: We received contributions from individuals,

from industry, from businesses. Naturally, we would go to people on an individual basis and it might be that they would give us a contribution personally as well as giving us a contribution as well from the business.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember the general range, what were the smaller and what were the larger contributions in general that you received?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, I don't believe that we received any huge donations. We might have received one or two in the \$500.00 bracket or several, I might say, in the \$500 category. But the individuals mostly contributed \$25, \$50, or \$100 some even from \$5 on up. I know I went to one dentist whom I knew very well and I thought that perhaps he would give us a substantial donation since he was a dentist. After spending thirty minutes with him and all this he finally wrote me a check for five dollars and I almost wanted to give it back to him. It irritated me.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you had rather broad support then?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you ever rent a headquarters?

MR. WASHBURN: No, the headquarters we had was gratis. The fact of it, I believe, it was right here in this building.

DR. CRAWFORD: Then you had more money for advertising?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes, we did.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did you try to concentrate on in the advertising? Newspapers?

MR. WASHBURN: Newspapers, radio--we did it all. We had a lot of people that would contribute advertising as their contribution. They would tell us to go down to Tulahoma News here and say to put \$25.00 on my account down there and we would get \$25 worth of advertising to put in there in the local paper.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you do any television advertising?

MR. WASHBURN: None.

DR. CRAWFORD: There is not a station in the county, is there?

MR. WASHBURN: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you use any billboards, bumper stickers and things like that?

MR. WASHBURN: We were supplied bumper stickers of course, from the state headquarters and some billboard type advertisements for store windows and that sort of thing on the side of automobiles. We did that sort of thing quite a bit. As I mentioned we did have a huge banner across the street here.

MR. WASHBURN: Who was your liaison with the state headquarters? Who did you call up there when you wanted something?

MR. WASHBURN: Carolyn Wein as I recall, was one of Winfield's secretaries. If I needed anything I could pretty well call her. Robin Beard was pretty much my main contact. During that time, we just pretty well did what we wanted to do down here.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, you mostly raised your own money except for the things they sent down.

MR. WASHBURN: Uh-huh.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember if you came out in the black in the county budget?

MR. WASHBURN: Oh yes. We sent a considerable amount of money down to the state headquarters from here. We maintained our own advertising campaign and still sent them plenty of money. I don't recall exactly the amount, but it was a substantial amount. It was well over what they asked us to send. You know they gave us a quota that like \$3,000 or something like that. We subscribed that right off the bat and had some for our own local needs.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, I know that was encouraging. Sometimes getting the quota is a problem.

MR. WASHBURN: It certainly is.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about the personal appearances? When did you first see Winfield again during the campaign?

MR. WASHBURN: Of course I had telephone contact with him and all. But the first time that I actually saw Winfield was when we had a big rally here in Tullahoma. We had it out at William Northem Field and the plan was that I was going to fly down to Nashville and pick Winfield and Betty up and fly them in here and it was going to be a big crowd at the hanger to greet them. As it turned out that fly-in plan sort of fell through. So Winfield

and Betty drove down with Robin Beard and his wife. I met them at the entrance to Northern Field out here. It was the first time that I had seen Winfield in years and immediately we started reminiscing about a lot of things and then we went on in to the hanger where everybody was waiting. Truly it was a tremendous crowd. It was one of the biggest boosts to Winfield and Betty that you can imagine, because they had no idea that Tullahoma, Tennessee, would ever put on such a reception in his honor. I think he was flabbergasted. I think he was thrilled and just extremely well-pleased with the turn out. And gosh, there were people here from all over. We had cars here from everywhere. It must have been fifty cars or more in that cavalcade.

DR. CRAWFORD: Now where did the cavalcade go?

MR. WASHBURN: All right, this was a big day, a big weekend I should say in Winfield's campaign.

It was right at the very start of his campaign and he had to go to Mc-Minnville and so Winfield drove with the Cavalcade to McMinnnville. I took Betty Dunn in my airplane we flew up there and landed up there so we could meet them later on. There was going to be a big time problem. We had to get back to Tullahoma in time to be in Shelbyville for a big party at Henry Tilford's in Shelbyville. Then from the party we had to go to the horse show and we were going to meet Senator Brock or rather he was running for the Senate--Bill Brock at that time. We had boxes over there at the horse show reserved for this occasion. Well, Betty Dunn and I took off in our airplane and flying into Mc-Minnville--you know she has a private pilot's license as does Winfield--I let her fly the airplane all the way over to McMinnnville. That tickled her to death and she hadn't flown in a good long while.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you have a single or two-motored plane?

MR. WASHBURN: It was a single-engine Bonanza. It's a sophisticated type of aircraft. So she was quite elated to be able to fly that airplane over there. From there we went on out to this country meeting and I can't remember exactly where it was, but I remember they had a big watermelon-cutting and everything. Oh, they had a number of political figures there. Albert Gore was there and Bill Brock and Winfield Dunn were there. I can't remember whether Hooker was there or not. I can't quite remember, but it was quite a political thing. Needless to say Winfield represented himself admirably and we were all quite proud of the way he was kicking his campaign off. Well, after this big political rally in McMinnville we hurriedly went to the airport and Winfield, Betty and myself and I can't remember if it was Robin Beard or just who--I guess it must have been Robin--got in the airplane and we flew back to Tullahoma. Well, I let Winfield fly and he too was pleased with this. He landed the airplane and did a great job. We came on and Betty and Winfield were staying at my house for the week-end and Robin Beard and his wife were staying next door at my wife's sister's house. So we had to hurry up and get dressed and prepare to go to the big party over at the Tilford's at Shelbyville which we did.

DR. CRAWFORD: You drove over to that, I believe, it's near here?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes, we did and it was amazing at the reception that Winfield received when we walked up.

DR. CRAWFORD: At Shelbyville?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes sir. It was a tremendous crowd at this

party. It was a garden-type party and the horse show celebration is a tremendous thing in this part of the country. Winfield was deluged with well wishes and hand-shakers and back-patters and that sort of thing. You know he is a handsome man--just tremendously handsome and I think maybe made quite an impression on all the ladies over there.

DR. CRAWFORD: What size would you estimate the crowd?

MR. WASHBURN: I'd say that they had around 200 people at that party. They were all over the state too. Well, after the party we then went to the horse show celebration. Those of us who were active in the campaign began to bring the various people around to the box to meet Winfield and we were doing our little job. We were wanting to bring dignitaries, mayors of different towns, political leaders of different towns around so they could meet Bill Brock and Winfield Dunn.

DR. CRAWFORD: What about your meeting at the hanger here?
How many people would you estimate were there?

MR. WASHBURN: I would say we must have had about 150 or maybe even more. They had donuts and coffee and that sort of thing, and a huge banner up on the front of the hanger. As I say Winfield was tremendously impressed with it. He had to be.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were they from Tullahoma--the people at the hanger?

MR. WASHBURN: Tullahoma, Shelbyville, McMinnville, Manchester, Fayetteville, Winchester and all over this area. We were quite active in getting people over here and it was an enormous thing as far as we were concerned. We thought it was great.

DR. CRAWFORD: How did he campaign after your rally at Northern Field here? Did he make a speech?

MR. WASHBURN: Just greeted everyone. He made a little short speech of appreciation, but nothing political like you would normally think of as being political. Let me say one thing about it. His political speech from there we had--I almost had forgotten a political rally down here at the shopping center right down here--and we had a platform set up and I introduced Winfield to the crowd and I say it must have been 300 people there at this political rally.

DR. CRAWFORD: What had you done to publicize it?

MR. WASHBURN: We had publicity on the radio and in the newspaper and that's about it. We had quite a bit of publication prior to that rally.

DR. CRAWFORD: That was a good crowd. Why do you think they turned out in numbers like that?

MR. WASHBURN: Curiosity perhaps, also it was in a shopping center and if anyone was there and they saw the crowd I imagine they came over and they knew Winfield Dunn was going to speak. I think he did an outstanding job. Of course I am prejudiced--I wanted it to be a success.

DR. CRAWFORD: What kind of speech do you think he gave best?

MR. WASHBURN: What kind of speech?

DR. CRAWFORD: Perhaps another way to ask it would be to what part of the audience did he speak best?

MR. WASHBURN: He spoke to everyone. No particular group

none of the ethnic groups or anything like that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did he seem more effective with a large audience or a small one?

MR. WASHBURN: Winfield Dunn had a knack. He was very articulate. Winfield Dunn could handle himself before any crowd whether it was an immense crowd or a small crowd or just a small gathering or group. He held just like his father used to hold forth. He came by his eloquence in good style, because his daddy could just roll it out. I don't know if Winfield was quite as forceful as his father, because as I said back in the days of his father's campaigning there was no public address systems and you just had to let your voice boom out, but Winfield was a little more low key and gracious. But he could handle himself before any type of crowd.

DR. CRAWFORD: What size of campaign staff did you develop before the campaign was over? How many people did you have involved?

MR. WASHBURN: Really Dr. Crawford, we just had the three people that I referred to earlier, Doyle Richardson, Eric Sosby and myself. We pretty well ran it. But as far as the staff were concerned we had volunteer workers, ladies manning the campaign headquarters and that sort of thing. I wouldn't be able to give you any number.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you have any trouble getting volunteers like that?

MR. WASHBURN: No.

DR. CRAWFORD: Who coordinated that? Who did the office management?

MR. WASHBURN: Most of the Republican women. I will say that the Republican Party women did this. We turned this pretty much over to them.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you remember how many appearances he made here?

MR. WASHBURN: He came to Tullahoma at one time which was scheduled. And he came back two or three different times. But mostly--not to make any speeches or anything like that--but to walk through the town and shake hands and maybe go to the newspaper and be interviewed or something along that nature.

DR. CRAWFORD: Do you know anything about the vote totals in the county?

MR. WASHBURN: No, I don't. But I do know that Coffee County carried in his favor.

DR. CRAWFORD: Were you surprised about that, sir?

MR. WASHBURN: No sir. Not at all.

DR. CRAWFORD: When did you start believing that you would carry Coffee County?

MR. WASHBURN: From the day that he won the Republican nomination. We were that confident because-- well, that's a little prejudiced to say really--but we felt pretty confident after that big initial rally. When he came on his first trip to Tullahoma, we saw the tremendous turn-out and interest in his campaign and we felt pretty confident right there.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you get the impression that people who turned out could be counted on to support him?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes sir. Very definitely.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, the results seem to bear it out. What did you do on election day?

MR. WASHBURN: You know I can hardly remember.

DR. CRAWFORD: Well, election night did you hear the returns here at election headquarters or did you go to Nashville?

MR. WASHBURN: No, I stayed right here in Tullahoma. I wasn't about to get involved with that huge throng that was at the headquarters there in Nashville. I felt like the job that we had done here in Coffee County and Tullahoma was over as far as that was concerned. I knew if I went down there I might get to speak to Winfield, but that would just be about it. I didn't feel like I would be missed at all so we stayed right here and watched at home. We did go down to the headquarters for awhile and put in an appearance, but most of the time we just went back home.

DR. CRAWFORD: Did you have a large crowd here at headquarters?

MR. WASHBURN: Yes, we did. That night you mean? Oh there must have been about twenty or thirty people would drop in and leave and watch for awhile and leave.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was highly unusual for Coffee County to

support a Republican. Why do you think they did this time?

MR. WASHBURN: I don't know Dr. Crawford, I'm not much of a political prognosticator? I think Winfield Dunn was a fresh face. He was a sincere person, he was dedicated, he was a handsome man. Anytime he would shake a hand, he would almost assuredly get a vote. He did an awful lot of hand-shaking. When the people here saw what kind of a person he really was, I think they responded to it. I think they were hungry for that sort of an individual to head up our state government. Aside from that it was very difficult, you see the state of Tennessee as a whole is predominately Democratic. So an awful lot of Democrats had to vote for Winfield Dunn for him to get elected.

DR. CRAWFORD: Why do you think they went for Winfield Dunn in such numbers? Evidently a lot of them had to for this to happen.

MR. WASHBURN: Why do I think they did? Pretty much for the reasons I just mentioned. The fact that he was a fresh face. He was not a politically oriented. he had never held public office before. He was honest, dedicated, sincere and I can't over-stress this word, "sincere." I think that Winfield was an extremely sincere individual. And you know, my father told me years ago that if a person was sincere, didn't make any difference what they believed or whatever, but if they were sincere then you pretty well had to give them credit for that sincerity and overlook some of the other faults. I think this is one of the big pluses for him.

DR. CRAWFORD: It seems that people were able to get that impression. It wasn't that he was sincere, but that people understood that he was.

MR. WASHBURN: Absolutely, This is the way that he could relate to people on all levels. He could relate to the sophisticated type, or the blue collar worker, or the laborer or on all levels.

DR. CRAWFORD: And you were in touch with him after the election? When did you see him next after the general election in November?

MR. WASHBURN: Winfield called me and asked me if I would have breakfast in the mansion with his family on the morning after the inauguration. And of course, I was tremendously flattered at this as it turned out Nancy and I were the only outsiders present outside of his family which is in itself was a pretty good crowd. At a breakfast he had, it was very informal, it was when I showed up at the mansion they were expecting me apparently and I just went right on in and sat down at the breakfast table and they started serving. That was just about the size of it.

DR. CRAWFORD: What did you talk over at that meeting?

MR. WASHBURN: There was no meeting, it was just a happy occasion.

DR. CRAWFORD: It was a social visit.

MR. WASHBURN: Really. I was able to see his sister, Ann, whom I hadn't seen in years and hugged her

neck and his father was not there that morning but we went later to his room at the hotel. Winfield's other sister, Dionne, his uncle, and other members of the family. His mother wasn't there. She was ill and wasn't able to come. It was a real good thing just to be there with all those people that I had known in my early years.

DR. CRAWFORD: What other contact did you have while he was in office?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, I tried to tell Winfield from the very outset that the only interest in this campaign was to get him elected. After that I would have no reason at all to call on him for anything. I said, "Winfield, I am your friend, I don't want you to think for one minute that I will or have something to gain from my association with you. I wouldn't do anything to embarrass you. I wouldn't ask you anything that shouldn't be asked. And I said, "I would like to feel that if I ever came down and knocked on your door that the door would open and I could come in." And pure and simple--that was the way it was. I had nothing to gain from him being governor and I just wanted that relationship.

DR. CRAWFORD: At the conclusion of his term how did you feel about his term as governor.

MR. WASHBURN: I thought he was outstanding. Of course here again, I was prejudiced. I wanted him to be a success and I think in my own mind that sincerely he was a success. I think he had an outstanding administration. There were no scandals. Nothing adverse particularly that could embarrass him or the state of Tennessee. I just thought he handled himself in such a way that he was a true credit to the state. The fact that he rose so high in the Republican Party and with his other Republican counter-

parts--the other governors--what was he chosen for? Chairman of the Republican Governors Conference. The fact that he was elected to this post speaks well of him. I just think he is an outstanding person and still is. I think he had an outstanding administration and I was just so pleased that I could have had something to do with it.

DR. CRAWFORD: Are there any other incidents you would like to be part of this record?

MR. WASHBURN: I don't know Dr. Crawford, I am sure after this interview is over I will think of a dozen things I should have said or would have liked to have said. But at this point I just don't know of anything else of any importance. I might say that I did go down and talk with the Governor on one or two occasions. Things that I had to talk to him about were I felt, were to his interest to know about and as far as I know I never tried to use any influence that I might have had with him to do anything--except well, I just can't think of anything where I tried to use any influence at all.

DR. CRAWFORD. It has been a very complete account. Thank you very much Mr. Washburn.

DR. CRAWFORD : Mr. Washburn, I believe you have remembered a few other items that you didn't remember when we started. Would you care to give them for the record now.

MR. WASHBURN: Well, for the purpose of this interview I'm pretty sure I failed to give my birth date in my biography. I was born in Meridian, Mississippi in the great Southman Hotel as I so stated on April 16, 1922. I also mentioned

that the campaign headquarters for Winfield Dunn and Bill Brock were across the street in the Cook Building and they were not gratis. We had to pay for that headquarters over there. But it was quite active and it was manned by volunteers and mostly the Republican women of the county. They would always have coffee and cookies and donuts and that sort of thing available to anyone who wanted to drop by.

DR. CRAWFORD: This was during the campaign of 1970?

MR. WASHBURN: Right. Now there was one other occasion that I think to be significant and that was when Winfield Dunn and John J. Hooker were going to have one of their famous head to head confrontations or debates in Springfield, Tennessee. It was highly publicized by all branches of the media as I recall and we had a very large contingent from Tullahoma to attend that meeting up in Springfield and we all flew up. As a matter of fact I think it must have been at least five or six airplanes from Tullahoma that departed at Northern Field and flew all the way to Springfield for this meeting. I might add that we were met there at the airport by Winfield Dunn's supporters and driven up to the courthouse and there we mingled with the crowd. And I remember very well Winfield was awaiting his chance to speak and he glanced out over the crowd and he saw me and some of the other members of our contingent and he was just elated. He was just so thrilled to see us there he didn't know what to do. He waved to us and acknowledged that we were there. Of course, afterward we went up and spoke to him and he told us how much he appreciated us coming and leading our support. It was a real big thing for us to come all the way from Tullahoma up to there for that occasion. He was very grateful for our loyalty in this regard.

DR. CRAWFORD: If you have just a moment for a question
 about that day? In your estimate, how did
the two men compare?

MR. WASHBURN: Well, it was no question in my mind. Win-
 field covered John J. Hooker like a dollar
over a dime. I think the fact that they had a head to head confronta-
tion and the manner in which Winfield handled the issues was so far
superior to John J. Hooker that there was no comparison. He garnered
a tremendous vote there on that day I am sure. I believe that they had
several other debates along the line. No question but that Winfield
Dunn did come out way ahead on that.

DR. CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. Washburn.

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